



**KENTUCKY READING FIRST
UPDATE (XIII)
November/December, 2005**

Dear District /School Coaches and Principals:

The holiday season is here! It seems like yesterday that we were completing Summer Institutes and getting ready for the 2005-06 school year. Now, the school year is almost half over!

You and your staff are to be commended for the many hours of hard work to make appropriate reading instructional decisions for your students. Our test scores are indicative of the concentrated effort by all of you.

It is my pleasure to announce that Sharla Six is the new KY RF Co-coordinator! Many of you already know her as the State Coach for Central KY. She will begin her duties in Frankfort on January 3, 2006. At that time, you will be able to reach her at 502/564-7056.

Reading First will be looking for a new State Coach for south central Kentucky. If you are interested or know of someone, please check the KDE website for the job posting. It should be available by mid-December.

As you plan for 2006, please keep these RF notes in mind.

Dates to Remember:

November 28-December 9th

December 7

December 9

GRADE Testing Window

Last day to Submit Expenditure Vouchers

GRADE Booklets Due To AGS

December 5-16

December 16

February 9

March 9

DIBELS Testing Window

All Palms Must be Synced

Principals' Institute - Clarion off Hurstbourne Ln.,
Louisville

Pre-KTLC (for school teams)

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Principals' Institute

Thursday, February 9, 2006 is the date for the next Principals' Institute. The topic for the February meeting will be using RF data to inform instruction. Each principal is asked to bring his/her District and School Coaches to this meeting. It always helps to have a team analyze data and plan follow-up for the school. The Superintendents are always invited to attend with their principal(s).

Due to the KY Legislature being in session and other state conferences in Frankfort, the Frankfort Holiday Inn is not available. So, we will be meeting at the Clarion Hotel, off Hurstbourne Lane in Louisville. The draft agenda is attached.



Reading First
Principal Instit...

PD Hours

As we approach the second half of the year, please check the professional development hours completed by your staff. The required eighty hours for this school year need to be completed by the last day of school. A new year of professional development begins the day after school is out for the summer.

October, November, and December Monthly Coaches' Meetings

The October Regional Coaches' Meeting focused on the Three Tier Model. Participants were given grouping mats to use, with data, in forming flexible groups. The school coach received enough mats for each teacher in the school and was asked to share their use at grade level meetings, staff meetings, literacy team meetings, etc.

Professional Development was the theme for the November Regional Meeting. Participants learned about the types of job-embedded professional development that align with KDE's Professional Development Standards. Each school Coach, district Coach and principal had an opportunity to look at his/her own past Professional Development Plan and discuss how to promote more job-embedded PD opportunities.

The December Regional Meeting will focus on the Intensive Assistance Reading Plan (IARP). Clarification on issues surrounding the Intensive Assistance Reading Plan will be addressed. As a result of surveys that were sent to school coaches about the Intensive

Reading Assistance Plan, a revised form was developed. This form will be shared at the upcoming meeting.

The RF Regional Meetings continue to be a positive way for school and district coaches, as well as principals and superintendents, to network with each other. It also provides an opportunity for participants to ask questions, learn about current issues surrounding Reading First, and share in the celebrations of their schools' successes.

II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING

Monitoring Tool

Thank you for returning your Monitoring Tools. The self-evaluation format provided a process for literacy teams to evaluate how well their RF grant was being implemented. This tool will be used again in the late spring. KDE will now look over the fall Monitoring Tools to see how schools rate their implementation progress and what next steps are needed for technical assistance and monitoring.

III. READING FIRST BUDGET SUPPORT

2004-2005 Reading First (5084R) Funds

The final date to submit expenditure reports for Reading First 5084R was **December 7, 2005**. Final reports must be mailed to: Thelma Hawkins, Division of Budgets, 500 Mero Street, 16th Floor CPT, Frankfort, KY 40601.

IV. ASSESSMENTS

Wireless Generation

If you are interested in the Wireless Generation Data Bridge with the Oregon DIBELS reports, KDE has asked that Wireless work directly with the districts to establish this bridge. Kiley Whitaker will be sending out that information.

AGS

The AGS database must be up-to-date by the last day of the Winter GRADE testing window, December 9th. AGS will pull information out of the database on the 9th to begin scoring your booklets. Any errors in the database will result in errors on your reports. Some of the things you will want to check are: student information (such as grade level), classroom information (right students in the right classroom), and any students who have joined your school or left your school. Thank you.

Schools that are planning to hand score their GRADE tests using the GRADE software need the version 2.2. The version number appears when the software begins or after the software is open, and you may check the version by selecting "**help**" from the menu at the top and then select "**about**". If you have version 2.1, you may contact Dee Mullins at AGS for the current version.

NOTE:

Spring GRADE booklets will not come preprinted. Only the student name and identification numbers will need to be bubbled-in. All other information on the student will be in the AGS database and will not need to be bubbled-in. This means that your AGS database will need to be completely updated in order for correct information to be on your reports.

V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION

The National Impact Study should be in direct contact with schools regarding their winter and spring visits. If you have questions regarding this, please contact your State Coach.

The CCLD Reading First Evaluation Team will be conducting interviews with non-case study district and school coaches during the month of December. Also, the second site visits for the case study schools are scheduled for January 17th through February 16th, 2006.

In the near future, the evaluation team will be contacting case study school coaches to schedule the two-day visits for the observation window of January 16th to February 15th, 2006.

Other

The designated 90-minute block for reading instruction is a focused time for improving students' skills as a reader. Language arts skills (i.e., grammar and composition) **are not** to be included in the designated 90-minute block for reading instruction. However, reading and writing connections need to be made, and students may use writing as a way to practice/apply the elements of reading.

Many RF schools adopted language arts programs as their core, and this is a reminder that the grammar sections should be completed outside of the reading block, and teachers need to allow for an additional block of time in which the focus is on improving students' skills as a writer (process writing). Connections should be made between the two blocks of literacy.